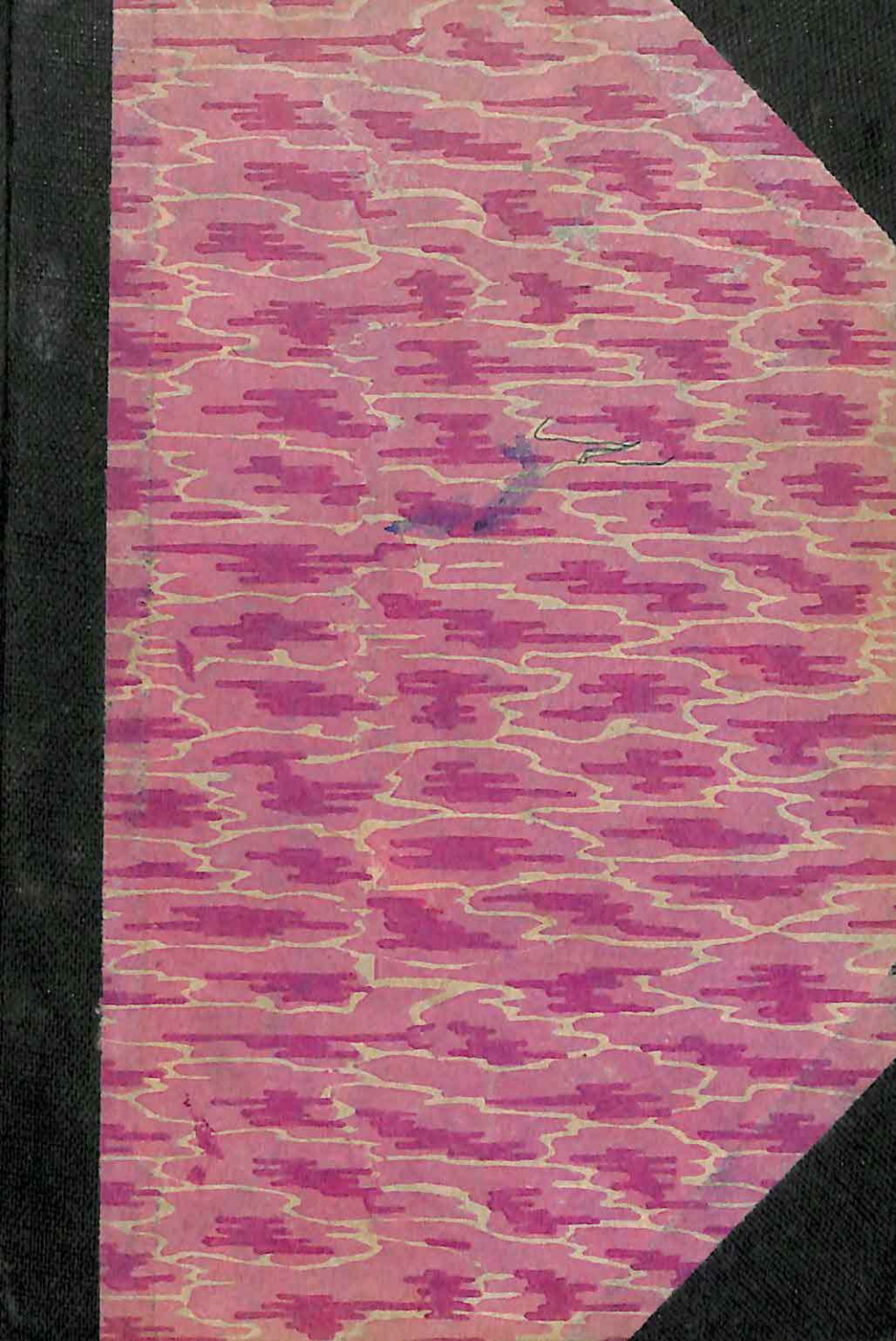
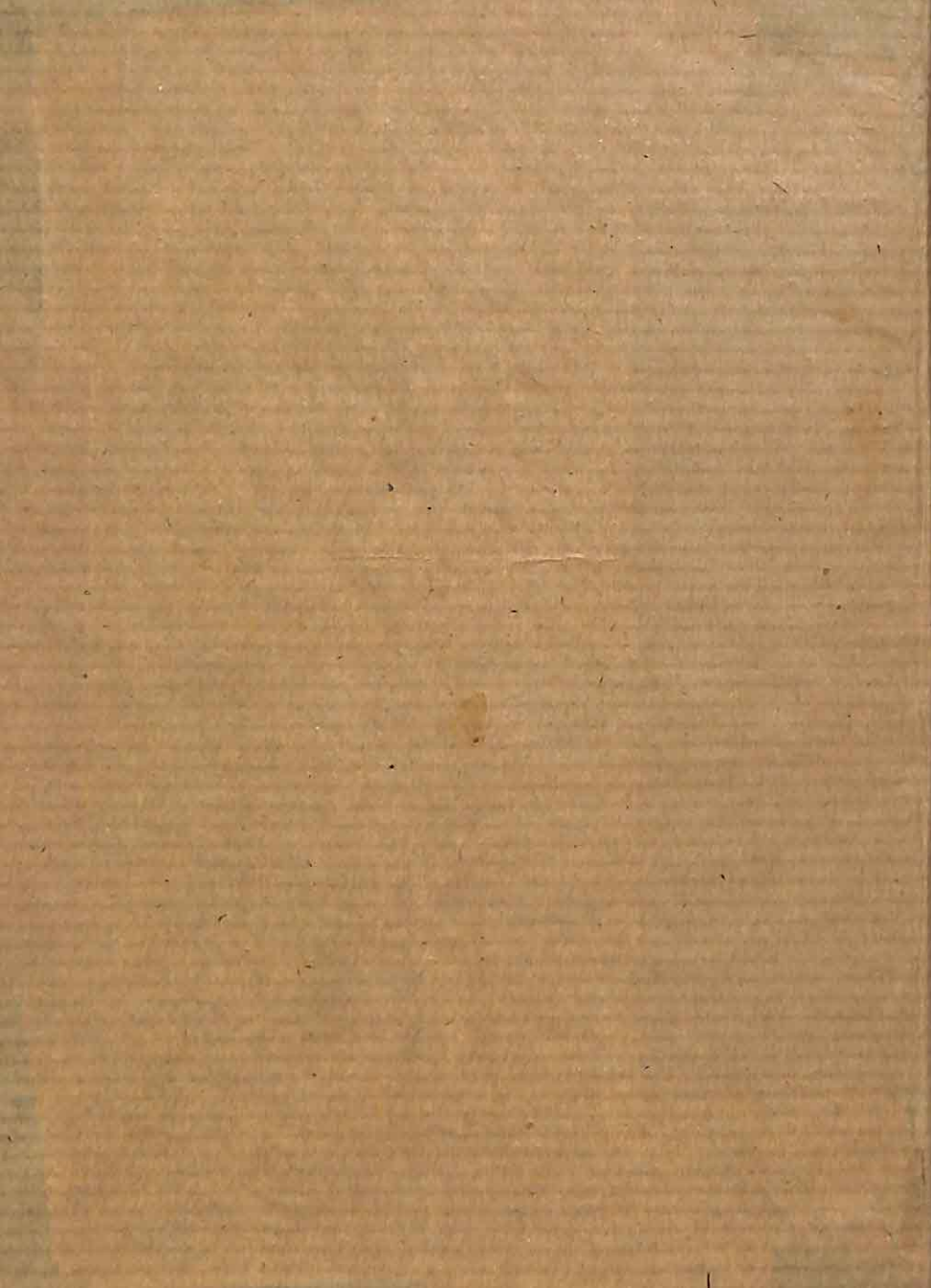
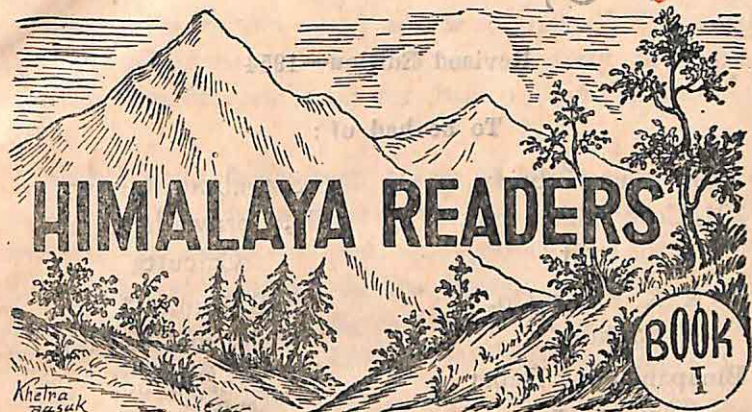






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423 [For Class VI] T/51

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PREFACE

3928

Himalaya Readers, Book I, is intended for Class VI of Secondary Schools. It has been written in accordance with the Syllabus prescribed by the Board of Secondary Education, West Bengal, for Class VI.

English is not an easy language to master. The author is fully conscious of the difficulty inherent in writing suitable English textbooks for Indian pupils of lower age group.

Great pains have been taken to make the topics as varied, instructive and interesting as possible. In the selection of words, phrases, and grammatical forms great care has been taken to make the lessons easily intelligible and interesting. All complex turns of thought and speech have been avoided. The lessons have been carefully graded.

For the teaching of Grammar and Composition much will depend upon the teacher. In a textbook with a limited scope it is just possible to include lessons on Grammar and Composition in bare outlines to meet the requirements of the Syllabus.

It is hoped that from the point of view of both matter and form and general treatment this small textbook will be found quite suitable for boys and girls of the age group for whom it is meant.

Ballygunge, Calcutta }
The 24th November, 1954 }

S. C. Gupta

S B

BREVIARY

History teachers, Book I is intended for Class VI of Secondary Schools. It has been written in accordance with the syllabus prescribed by the Board of Secondary Education, West Bengal, for Class VI.

English is not an easy language to master. The author is fully conscious of the difficulty inherent in writing an English textbook for Indian pupils of this age group.

Great pains have been taken to make the style as varied, interesting and instructive as possible. The selection of words, phrases and sentences has been carefully made. The lessons have been taken from the famous works of the past and the present. All the facts are of the highest quality and interest. The lessons have been carefully selected.

For the teaching of Grammar and Composition much will depend upon the teacher. In a textbook with a limited scope it is not possible to include lessons on Grammar and Composition in detail. In this regard the teacher will find the following suggestions of value.

It is noted that in the point of view of both matter and form and mental processes the small textbook will be found quite suitable for boys and girls of the age group for whom it is written.

Calcutta, 1951
The State Government, Calcutta
S. C. Gupta

21/11

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HIMALAYA READERS

BOOK I

LESSON 1

MORNING

bloom

gentle

joy

around

awake

cheerful

cool

health

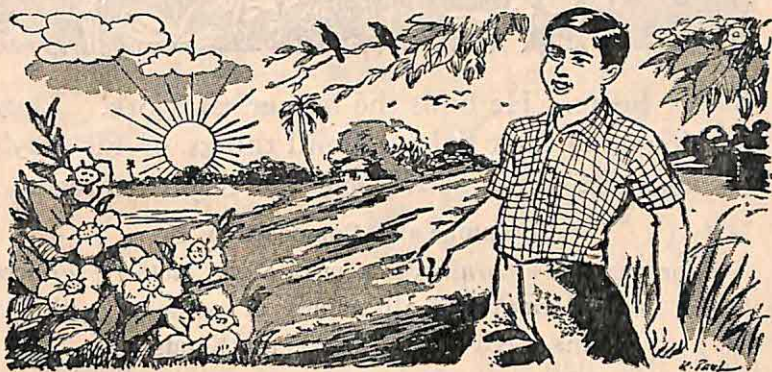
still

wake

farmers

ploughing

Idioms : in bed, get up, at work



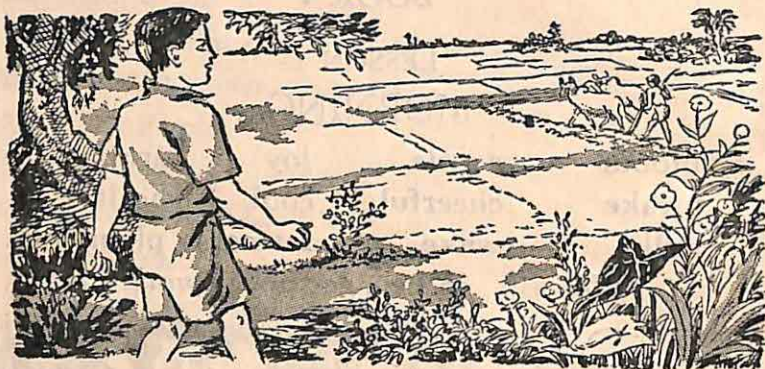
It is morning. The sun is up. It looks like a ball of fire.

Flowers are in bloom. Birds are singing. A gentle wind is blowing. There is joy all around. Men are all awake. They feel very cheerful.

The air is cool and pure now. It is nice to go out for a walk. It is good for health.

Sunil, a small boy, is still in bed. His mother calls out, "Sunil, wake up, wake up."

Sunil gets up and washes his hands and face. He takes a walk in the open air. He feels a new joy



in his heart. He finds the farmers at work. They are ploughing their fields. Sunil thinks of his day's lessons. He comes back home and begins to read.

Grammar and Composition

Words such as *morning, sun, men, Sunil, mother, farmers, flowers, birds, health* are all names of persons or things. They are Nouns. All naming words are Nouns.

Exercises

Composition :

1. Pick out the *Nouns* in the following sentences :—
 - (a) The sun is up.
 - (b) Sunil, a small boy, is still in bed.
2. Put a *Noun* in each of the following gaps :—
 - (a) He thinks of his day's—.
 - (b) The—is cool and pure now.

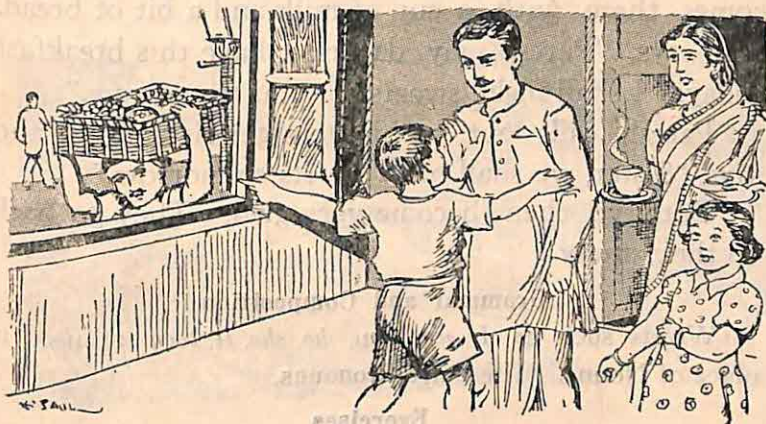
Conversation :

1. What looks like a ball of fire ?
2. Who takes a walk in the open air ?

LESSON 2

BREAKFAST

clock	half	past	breakfast
below	hawker	happens	eager
please	rupee	wise	dirt
besides	ruin	bit	darling
to-morrow	younger	both	study



Paresh looks at the clock. It is half past seven in the morning. It is time for his breakfast. He stands at the window and looks out. The window opens out on a street below. A hawker happens to pass that way. He carries a basket full of sweets on his head. He sells sweets from house to house.

Paresh is eager to have some sweets. He runs to his father and says, "Father, please let me have a rupee. I shall buy some sweets with it from that hawker."

His father is a very wise man. He says, "Oh dear, what do you say ? Do you like to buy sweets from that hawker ? No, never—you must not buy those sweets. These hawkers carry their sweets without any cover. These are full of dirt. Besides, flies sit on them. Such things may ruin your health."

Paresh is very sad at heart. Just then his mother comes there with a cup of milk and a bit of bread. She says, "Paresh, my darling ! have this breakfast today. I shall make sweets for you to-morrow."

Paresh calls out to his younger sister Rubi and says, "Sister, we shall have sweets to-morrow."

Both of them become very glad. They go back to their study.

Grammar and Composition

Words such as *I, we, you, he, she, it, they* are used in place of Nouns. These are **Pronouns**.

Exercises

Composition :

1. Pick out the *Pronouns* in the following sentences :—
 - (a) I shall make sweets for you to-morrow.
 - (b) They go back to their study.
2. Put a *Pronoun* in each of the following gaps :—
 - (a) —runs to his father.
 - (b) —must not buy those sweets.

Conversation :

1. What does the hawker carry on his head ?
 2. Why should not Paresh buy sweets from the hawker ?
-

LESSON 3

OUR HOME

village

pond

fish

parents

front

pet

faithful

elder

swim

useful

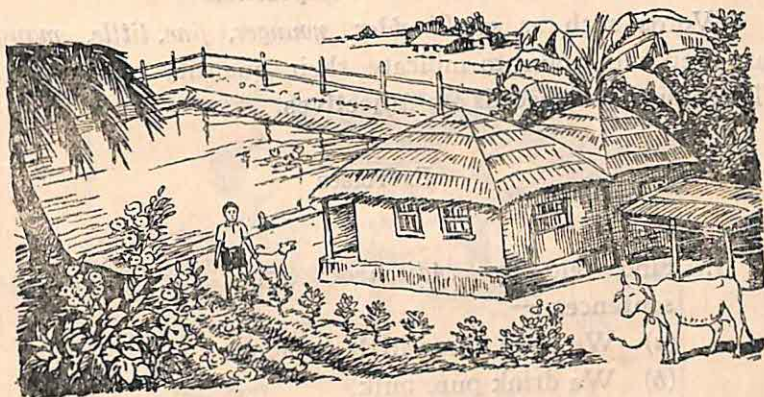
watch

fruit

catch

animal

Idiom : in front of



Our home is in a village. This is our home. It is a small house.

We live with our parents at home. I have an elder brother and a younger sister. We love one another very much.

We have a fine little garden. It is behind our house. There are many fruit trees and flower plants in it. We have a big pond, too. It lies in front of our house. There are fish, big and small, in it. We bathe and swim in the pond. We also catch fish in it.

We have a white cow and a pet dog. The cow is a useful animal. She gives us milk to drink. The dog is a faithful animal. He keeps watch over our house at night.

We are quite happy at home. There is no place so sweet as home.

Grammar and Composition

Words such as *small, elder, younger, fine, little, many* are used with nouns to indicate their quantity or quality. These qualifying words are **Adjectives**.

Exercises

Composition :

- Find out the *Adjectives* from the following sentences :—
 - We have a fine little garden.
 - We drink pure milk.
- Fill in the following gaps with *Adjectives* :—
 - We have a—pond, too.
 - The dog is a—animal.

Conversation :

- What lies in front of the house ?
 - What does the cow give us ?
- _____

LESSON 4

MY HOUSE

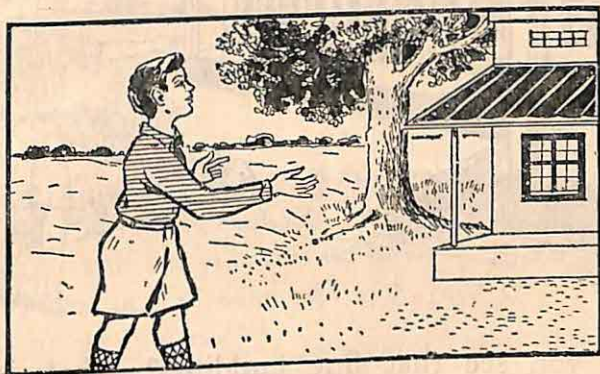
livelong

hardly

cry

shade

My house is red—a little house,
A happy child am I,
I laugh and play the livelong day,
I hardly even cry.



I have a tree, a green, green tree,
To shade me from the sun ;
And under it I often sit,
When all my work is done.

Exercises

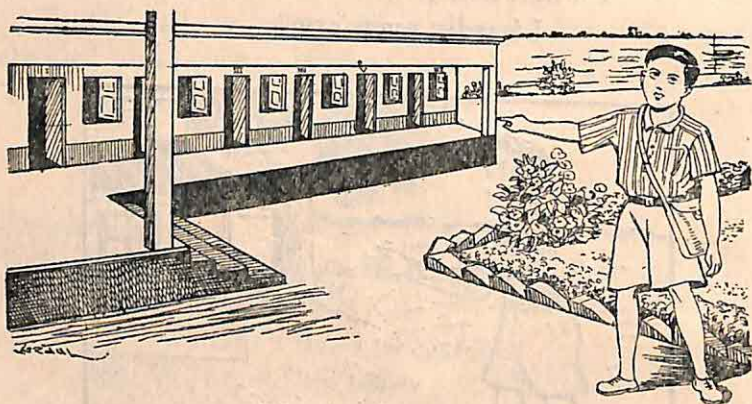
1. How does the child pass his day ?
 2. What does the child do when all his work is done ?
-

LESSON 5

OUR SCHOOL

building	separate	headmaster	period
teachers	different	listen	noise
hour	tiffin	breaks	return

Idioms : breaks up, as soon as



Do you see that fine building? That is our school. It is a High School. It stands on the river-side. It has many big rooms. There are six classes in our school. Each class sits in a separate room. I read in Class VI. We are forty boys in our class.

Our school begins at eleven. Our Headmaster takes our class in the first period. Other teachers come to our class in different periods. We take our lessons from our teachers. We listen to them. We do what they tell us to do. We make no noise in the class.

We have no class-work for half an hour. That is our tiffin period. It begins at half past one. As soon as the tiffin is over, our class-work starts again.

Our school breaks up at four. We feel glad that the day's work is over. We then return home.

Grammar and Composition

Words such as *see, read, do, be, have* tell something about a person or thing. These telling words are **Verbs**.

Exercises

Composition :

1. Pick out the *Verbs* in the following sentences :—
 - (a) That is our school.
 - (b) Our school begins at eleven.
2. Fill in the following gaps with *Verbs* :—
 - (a) I—in Class VI.
 - (b) We—forty boys in our class.

Conversation :

1. How many boys are there in your class ?
2. Who takes your class in the first period ?

LESSON 6

A GREAT QUEEN

ago	queen	wisely	happily
rule	fight	quarrel	rulers
boldly	war	trusted	shelter
fort	maids	attacked	loudly
stream	meantime	alone	bravely

Idioms : give up, fell upon



About one hundred years ago there was a great queen in Jhansi. Her name was Rani Lakshmibai. She ruled very wisely. People lived happily under her rule. Though a woman, she could ride and fight like any man. She had a quarrel with the British rulers. They ordered her to hand over her State to them. But she said boldly, "I will not give up my Jhansi."

Soon a war broke out. The queen led her soldiers against the enemy. But alas! she could not save

Jhansi. She had to leave the city with her father, son and trusted soldiers.

The queen took shelter in the fort of Gwalior. But she could not hold it long. One day she left the fort with two of her maids. On the way a British soldier attacked one of them. The maid cried out loudly. On hearing the cry, the queen fell upon the soldier and cut off his head.

Then she came to a stream. But her horse would not move. In the meantime the British soldiers came up. She fought alone with three of them. She fell fighting bravely.

Grammar and Composition

Words such as *very*, *happily*, *bravely*, *wisely* are used with Verbs, Adjectives or Adverbs to indicate manner, extent or degree. These words are **Adverbs**.

Exercises

Composition :

1. Pick out the *Adverbs* in the following sentences :—
 - (a) She ruled very wisely.
 - (b) People lived happily under her rule.
2. Put an *Adverb* in each of the following gaps :—
 - (a) The maid cried out—.
 - (b) She fought—with three of them.

Conversation :

1. "I will not give up my Jhansi."—Who said this ?
 2. How did Rani Lakshmibai meet her death ?
-

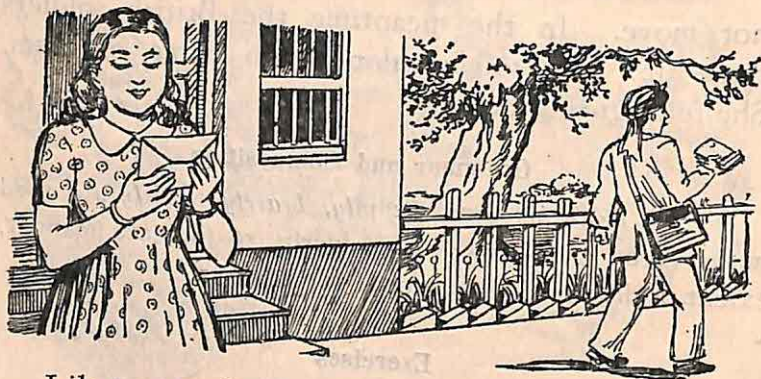
LESSON 7

A LETTER

knocking	postman	letter	deliver
address	envelope	where	mark
post-office	date	yesterday	truly
wonderful	dream	planes	between
speed	tore	news	inform

Idiom : on his round

Spelling : true + ly = truly, carry + ed = carried



Lila was resting in her room at noon. She heard a knocking at the door. She opened the door and saw a postman there. He had a letter in his hand.

The postman handed her the letter and went his way. He was out on his round. He had many letters to deliver.

Lila read the address on the envelope. The letter was for her father. She took it to her father and said, "Father, here is a letter for you. Who has written the letter, and from where?"

Her father said, "Look at the post-mark on the envelope. There you will find the name of the post-office and the date of posting."

Lila saw it and said, "Oh, I see. It was posted at Bombay on the 10th March. Today is the 11th. Bombay is a long way off. How could it reach here at Calcutta in such a short time?"

The father said, "Truly it is wonderful. We could not have dreamt of it before. But now letters are carried by planes between large cities of India. Planes fly at a great speed."

The father tore open the letter and read it. It brought a very good news. Lila's elder brother would soon come from Bombay. Lila ran with joy to inform her mother.

Grammar and Composition

Words like *in*, *on*, *from* are put before Nouns and Pronouns to show their relation to some other word or words in a sentence. These words are **Prepositions**.

Exercises

Composition :

1. Pick out the *Prepositions* in the following :—
 - (a) Lila read the address on the envelope.
 - (b) He had a letter in his hand.
2. Fill in the following gaps with *Prepositions* :—
 - (a) Lila's elder brother would soon come—Bombay.
 - (b) Lila heard a knocking—the door.

Conversation :

1. Where was the letter posted ?
2. What good news did the letter bring ?

LESSON 8

GREEDY SAM

dreadful
cram

plums
indeed

grudged
stuff

taste
greedy



Sammy Smith would drink and eat
From morning unto night ;
He filled his mouth so full of meat
It was a dreadful sight.
Sometimes he gave a book or toy
For apples, cake, or plums,
And grudged if any other boy
Should taste a single cram.
Indeed, he ate and drank so fast,
And used to stuff and cram,
The name they called him by at last
Was often Greedy Sam.

—Elizabeth Turner

Exercises

1. Why was Sammy Smith called 'Greedy Sam' ?
2. What would Sammy Smith do from morning to night ?

LESSON 9

THE SNOWMAN

sheep	cows	camel	feed
wild	thick	forest	snowman
footprints	snows	strange	believe
really	sort	beast	dig
roots	beneath	amidst	

Idiom : live on

Spelling : try + ed = tried



[What a snowman may look like]

We know much about cats and dogs, sheep and cows, horses and camels. We know what they eat and how they live. We feed them, and take care of them. They serve us in many ways; they are very useful to us.

Wild animals live in thick forests. They live far away from us, and we know very little of them. One such animal is the snowman. Some people saw some footprints high up on the Himalayas. These

footprints are like those of men, but bigger. Whose footprints are these? No man lives there. Other animals also are not found there. So they think that these footprints are of a strange animal. They have given it the name 'snowman'.

Some say that snowmen have long hair on their body and are like bears. They can stand and walk like men. They dig out roots from beneath the snows and live on them.

Many men believe that this strange animal lives high up amidst the snows of the Himalayas. But no man really knows what a snowman is. It may be a sort of man, or it may be a beast.

Grammar and Composition

And, but, or are used to join separate words or sentences. These joining words are **Conjunctions**.

Exercises

Composition :

- Find out the *Conjunctions* from the following sentences :—
 - It may be a sort of man, or it may be a beast.
 - We know much about cats and dogs.
- Put a *Conjunction* in each of the following gaps :—
 - We feed them,—take care of them.
 - We know much about sheep—cows.

Conversation :

- Where does the snowman live ?
- What does the snowman look like ?

Anil replies, "It is the cuckoo. It flies away in winter and comes back in spring. It may be black, but it sings very sweetly."

"See ! the bird flies away. Where is its nest ?" asks Lila.

"It has no nest of its own. It does not build its nest as other birds do," says Anil.

"Then where does it lay its eggs ?" says Lila.

"It lays its eggs in the nest of crows, and then it flies away. It does not care for its eggs. The mother crow thinks that the eggs are her own and sits on them. When baby cuckoos come out of the eggs, the mother crow feeds them and brings them up," says Anil.

"Oh ! what a strange bird !" says Lila.

Grammar and Composition

Words such as *oh*, *hark* are used in a sentence as an exclamatory sound to express some strong feeling of the mind of the speaker. These words are **Interjections**.

Exercises

Composition :

Find out the *Interjections* in the following sentences :—

(a) Oh ! what a strange bird !

(b) See ! the bird flies away.

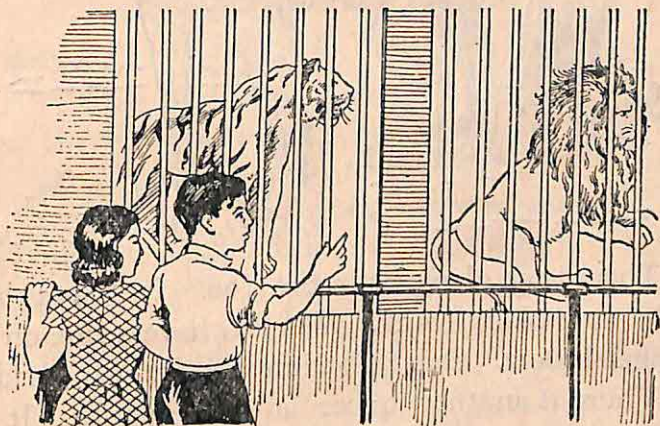
Conversation :

1. When does the cuckoo come back ?
 2. Where does the cuckoo lay its eggs ?
-

LESSON 11
THE ZOO

Zoo	worth	visit	lion
tiger	cages	pace	manes
grand	roar	distance	royal
stripes	fierce	elephant	huge
trunk	fun	giraffe	pick
top	various	offer	deer
	snakes		

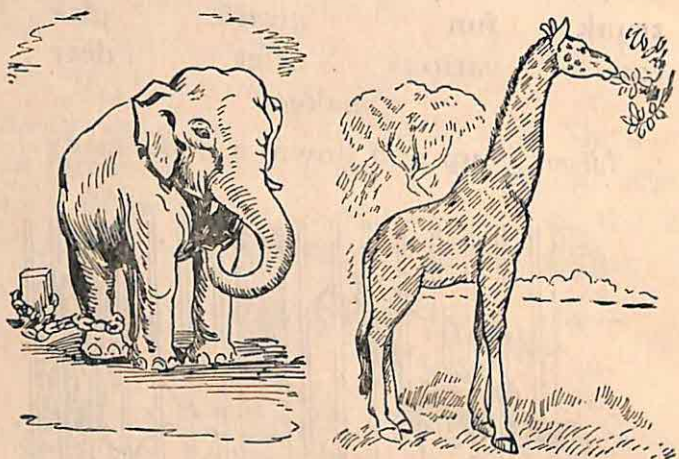
Idioms : up and down, a good many



Have you ever been to the Zoo at Alipore ? If not, you should see it once. This Zoo is a very fine one. There are a good many strange animals and birds in it. It is well worth a visit.

You can see lions and tigers there. They are kept in iron cages. They pace up and down in

their cages. Lions have long manes on their head. The African lions look very grand. Their roar can be heard from a distance. The Royal Bengal Tigers have black stripes on their body. They are very fierce animals. A lion is stronger than a tiger. The lion is called the king of beasts.



There is an elephant in the Zoo. It has a huge body and a long trunk. You can have a ride on the elephant there. It is great fun to have such a ride.

There is another queer animal,—giraffe. It has a very long neck. It can pick leaves from the top of a tree. This animal is found only in Africa.

Various kinds of deer are also there. They are very gentle. If you offer food to a deer, it will come to you and take the food from your hand.

Besides these, you will find many other animals, birds and snakes in the Zoo.

Note : 'It is great fun to have such a ride.' Ride is a verb, but it is used here as a *Noun*.

Grammar and Composition

A (or *an*) and *the* are used before Nouns. These are **Articles**.

A (or *an*) does not specify a Noun ; as—*A* lion is stronger than *a* tiger. There is *an* elephant in the Zoo.

The specifies a Noun ; as—*The* African lions look very grand.

Exercises

Composition :

1. Pick out the *Articles* in the following sentences :—
 - (a) Have you ever been to the Zoo at Alipore ?
 - (b) This Zoo is a very fine one.
 - (c) You can have a ride on the elephant there.
2. Fill in the following gaps with *Articles* :—
 - (a) It has—huge body.
 - (b) —lion is called the king of beasts.
 - (c) —Royal Bengal Tigers have black stripes on their body.

Conversation :

1. Which animal looks grand ?
2. Which animal can pick leaves from the top of a tree ?
3. What fun and joy can you have in the Zoo ?

12.11.2008
12.7.25



LESSON 12

A LITTLE CHAP

chap

straight

game

knight

truth



What can a little chap do
For his country and for you ?
What can a little chap do ?
He can play a straight game all through ;
That's one good thing he can do.
He can fight like a knight
For the truth and the right ;
That's another good thing he can do.

*

*

*

—John Oxenham

Exercise

What good things can a little chap do ?

LESSON 13

THE GAME OF FOOTBALL

anxious	match	shield	final
team	crowd	climbed	rush
rather	favourite	interesting	minutes
interval	players	supervises	referee
captain	obeyed	goal-keeper	touch
centre-forward		important	hockey
cricket	common	sport	refresh

Spelling : anxious (angkshus)



It was past evening. Our Atul had not returned home yet. His parents were anxious for him.

Atul had gone to see a football match. It was the Shield Final. The two best teams of Calcutta meet in the final. It was a great day for the young men. Most young men went to the *maidan* to see the game.

There was a huge crowd there. Thousands

watched the game from outside. Many boys climbed the trees near by and sat on the branches to watch the game.

Atul returned home after some time. His dress was torn, so great was the rush ! He looked rather sad as his favourite team had gone down.

Football is an interesting game. It is played in the hot and rainy seasons. It is played for fifty minutes with an interval of ten minutes in the middle. The players take rest and change their sides during the interval.

Football is played between two sides. Each side is made up of eleven players. A referee supervises the game. Each side is led by a captain. He is obeyed by all the players of his side.

Of the eleven players one is the goal-keeper. He stands between two goal posts and stops the ball from going into the net. He can use both his hands and feet in stopping the ball. Other players cannot touch the ball with their hands ; they can use their feet only. Two full-backs stand in front of the goal-keeper. There are three half-backs and five forwards. The centre-forward leads the attack. He is a very important player.

Many games are played in our country. Football, hockey, cricket, *ha-du-du* etc. are our common games. These games and sports refresh our mind and build our body. There is a saying, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

Note : 'Two best teams of Calcutta met in the **final**.'

Final is an adjective, but it is used here as a *Noun*.

'It was **past** evening.' **Past** is an adjective, but it is used here as a *Preposition*.

Grammar and Composition

When only one thing or person is meant, the noun is **Singular** ; as—He is an important *player*.

When more than one thing or person is meant, the noun is **Plural** ; as—Each side is made up of eleven *players*.

A noun may be used as required either in the singular number or in the plural number. **Note :**

Singular

Boy

Player

Half

Foot

Branch

Plural

Boys

Players

Halves

Feet

Branches

Exercises

Composition :

1. Say the number of each of the nouns in the following sentences :—
 - (a) Football is played between two sides.
 - (b) A referee supervises the game.
 - (c) He can use both his hands and feet in stopping the ball.
2. Give the plural forms of the following :—Day, team, post, captain, match.

Conversation :

1. Who supervises the game ?
2. What is the duty of a goal-keeper ?
3. How many players play in a team ?

LESSON 14

DHRUVA

hate	cottage	hermits	companions
lot	cheer	seek	everything
desire	earnest	prayer	glory
granted	change	absence	keenly
	misery	afterwards	

Idioms : at all, at last, looked upon



Long, long ago, there was a king named Uttanapada. He was a good and wise king, and he loved his people very much. He had two queens, Suniti and Suruchi.

Suniti was beautiful, kind and gentle. She had a son named Dhruva. Suruchi was not so kind and gentle as Suniti. But she was more beautiful than Suniti. She had a son named Uttama.

Suniti looked upon Suruchi as her younger sister and loved her. She also loved Uttama as her own son. But Suruchi did not at all like Suniti and her

son. She would speak ill of them to the king. At last the king began to hate them, and one day he sent them away from the palace.

Dhruva and his mother went to a forest and lived there in a cottage. Dhruva had the sons and the daughters of the hermits as his friends and companions there. But he was always sad at heart. He would think of his mother's hard lot. His mother always tried to cheer him up. She told him that God alone could make man happy. If he would seek God, he would find Him. God would set everything right.

One night Dhruva left the cottage. He went into a deep forest and walked on. He had one desire, and it was to find God. Lions and tigers passed by him, but they did him no harm. Dhruva began to pray to God. At last, moved by his earnest prayer, Lord Krishna appeared before him. Dhruva saw God in all His glory, and his heart's prayer was granted.

In the meantime a great change came over the mind of King Uttanapada. His love for Dhruva and his mother returned. He felt their absence keenly and sent for them.

Dhruva and his mother were taken back into the palace. Even Suruchi's mind also changed by this time, and she began to love Dhruva. Thus their misery came to an end.

It is said that Dhruva after death was made a star and placed in the northern sky. This is the North Pole Star, which never changes its position.

Note : Love and change are used here both as *Verbs* and as *Nouns* : as—

His *love* for Dhruva and his mother returned (*Noun*).

She also *loved* Uttama as her own son (*Verb*).

In the meantime a great *change* came over the mind of the king (*Noun*).

Even Suruchi's mind also *changed* by this time (*Verb*).

Grammar and Composition

There are four Genders—*Masculine*, *Feminine*, *Neuter* and *Common*.

Nouns denoting males such as *king*, *son* are **Masculine**.

Nouns denoting females such as *queen*, *daughter* are **Feminine**.

Nouns denoting things that have no life such as *forest*, *palace*, *time* are **Neuter**.

Nouns indicating either males or females such as *friend*, *companion* are **Common**.

Exercises

Composition :

1. Say the *Gender* of the nouns in the following :—

(a) Dhruva and his mother went to a forest.

(b) Dhruva had the sons and daughters of the hermits as his friends and companions.

2. Change the *Gender* of king, sister, son.

Conversation :

1. Why did Suniti and her son go to the forest ?

2. 'God would set everything right.'—Who said this and why ?

3. How did the misery of Dhruva and his mother come to an end ?

LESSON 15

BRIDGING THE OCEAN

seashore

barred

bow

aimed

folded

float

threw

army

rescue

chose

moment

mercy

bridge

sink

easily

ocean

decided

arrow

dry

destroy

satisfied

surface

sake

island

anger

force

punish

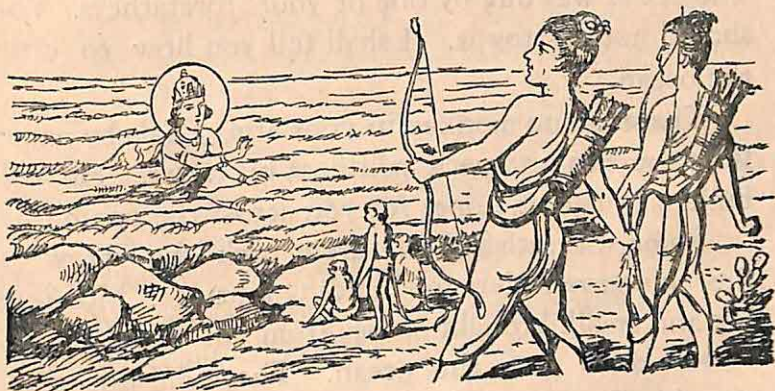
monkey

quarters

squirrel

Idiom : for the sake of

Spelling : satisfy + ed = satisfied, bridge + ing = bridging



Rama stood on the seashore with his army. There lay before him the great ocean. In that ocean lies the golden island of Lanka. The great ocean barred his way to that island. His mind was

troubled. How would he cross the ocean and rescue Sita from the hand of Ravana ?

He tried to please the god of the ocean by fasting and prayer. But it did not move the god. He decided to force the god to grant him way through the ocean. He must cross over to Lanka with his army of monkeys to punish Ravana.

His face was red with anger. He took up his great bow and chose the arrow of fire. He aimed at the ocean and let go his arrow. In a moment the ocean was going to dry up, and all living things in it were about to die.

The god of the ocean appeared before Rama and said with folded hands, "Lord ! have mercy upon me. The ocean was dug by one of your forefathers. You should not destroy it. I shall tell you how to cross the ocean.

There is one monkey in your army, Nala by name. If he touches a stone it will float on water. He will build a bridge of stones for you across the ocean."

Rama was satisfied. He drew back the arrow of fire. He gave orders for building a bridge. Monkeys, big and small, brought stones from all quarters and threw them into the ocean. They did not sink ; they lay floating on the surface. It is said that even a squirrel brought a stone and helped Rama in bridging the ocean. Thus the great bridge was built up. Rama could easily cross over to Lanka with his army, and give battle to Ravana for the sake of Sita.

Grammar and Composition

Tense shows the time of an action. There are three tenses—*Present*, *Past* and *Future*.

When an action is done in the present time, it is **Present tense** ; as—There *is* one monkey in your army, Nala by name.

When an action was done in the past time, it is **Past tense** ; as—Rama *stood* on the seashore with his army.

When an action will be done in future, it is **Future tense** ; as—I *shall tell* you how to cross the ocean.

Exercises

Composition :

1. Say the *Tenses* of the verbs in the following sentences :—

(a) He tried to please the god of the ocean by fasting and prayer.

(b) He will build a bridge of stones for you across the ocean.

(c) In that ocean lies the golden island of Lanka.

2. Frame sentences with the following verbs in *Present*, *Past* and *Future* tenses :—

Build, give, go.

Conversation :

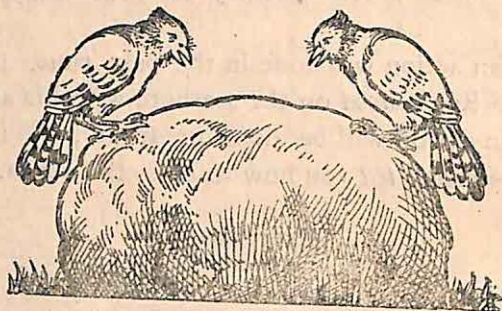
1. Who aimed his bow at the ocean and why ?
 2. Who built the bridge ?
-

LESSON 16

TWO LITTLE BIRDS

none

thank



Two little birds once sat on a stone.
One flew away, and there was one.
The other flew after, and then there was none.
And so the poor stone was left alone.

One of the birds then back again flew,
The other flew after, and then there were two.
Said one to the other, "How do you do?"
"Very well, thank you and how are you?"

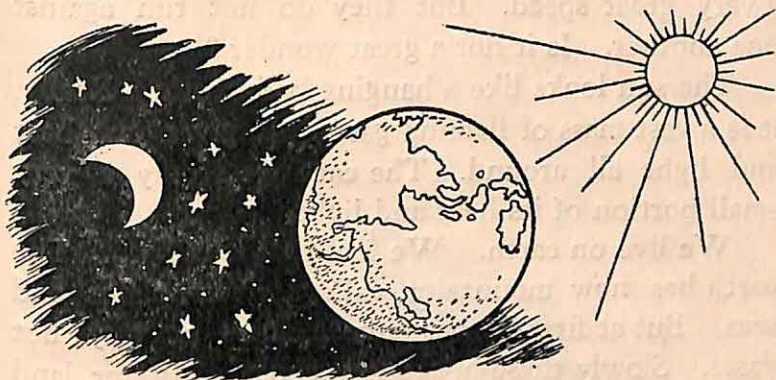
Exercise

How many birds sat on a stone ?

LESSON 17

OUR EARTH

members	single	millions	billions
grain	sand	space	hanging
vast	mass	flaming	gases
portion	valleys	slowly	



The sun, the moon and the earth are all members of a single family. Many millions of years ago there was no earth, and there was no moon, also. There was only the sun in the sky.

On a dark night we see thousands and thousands of stars twinkling in the sky. The sun is one such star. Billions of years ago the sun threw off a part of its body, and it became our earth. The earth also threw off a part of its body, and it became the moon.

Many stars are many times bigger than the sun. They look so small, because they are very far off. The sun is not so far from the earth as the stars are. So it looks a little bigger than the stars.

Our earth is big enough. But the sun is many times bigger than the earth. The earth would look like a grain of sand by the side of a star.

The earth moves round the sun, while the moon moves round the earth. The moon, the earth and millions of stars move in the space, and they move at a very great speed. But they do not run against one another. Is it not a great wonder ?

The sun looks like a hanging ball of fire. Really, it is a vast mass of flaming gases. It gives out heat and light all around. The earth gets only a very small portion of its heat and light.

We live on earth. We feel that it is hard. The earth has now mountains, valleys, rivers, plains and seas. But at first it was only a mass of very hot gases. Slowly these hot gases cooled. Water, land and air were formed. It then became a fit place for life. So we have the earth as it is now.

Grammar and Composition

Present Tense

Throw

Become

Past Tense

threw

became

Future Tense

shall or will throw

shall or will become

Exercises

Composition :

Use the following verbs in the *Present*, *Past* and *Future* tenses :—Get, look, do, see, become, have.

Conversation :

1. What was the state of our earth at first ?
2. Why do the stars look so small ?

LESSON 18

VIKRAMADITYA

PART ONE

title	capital	famous	seat
court	jewels	poet	judge
cases	rightly	mistake	throne
figures	angels	supported	pure
	simple	mound	

Spelling : judge



Once there was a great king in India. He was known by the title, Vikramaditya. He had his capital at Ujjain. It was then a famous seat of learning. He had in his court nine very learned men who were called *Navaratna* or nine jewels. The great poet Kalidas was one of them.

Vikramaditya was a great king. He was also great as a judge. He decided cases rightly and never

made a mistake. King Vikramaditya came to be known as the greatest judge that ever lived.

The king had a wonderful throne. It was of black stone. The figures of thirty-two stone angels supported it. All men could not sit on it. Only a man, pure and simple like a child, could sit on it.

A long time passed away. Vikramaditya and his court were no more. His palace lay in ruins. Only a mound showed where the palace once stood.

Grammar and Composition

<i>Present Tense</i>	<i>Past Tense</i>	<i>Present Tense</i>	<i>Past Tense</i>
Be	<i>was</i>	Decide	<i>decided</i>
Have	<i>had</i>	Call	<i>called</i>
Can	<i>could</i>	Support	<i>supported</i>

Exercises

Composition :

- Fill in each gap with the *Past tense* of the verb given :—
 - The poet Kalidas—one of them. (Be)
 - He—a wonderful throne. (Have)
 - All men—not sit on it. (Can)
 - People—to his court. (Come)
- Name the Parts of Speech used in the following :—
 - The king had a wonderful throne.
 - It was of black stone.

Conversation :

- Why was Ujjain famous ?
 - Who could sit on the throne ?
-

LESSON 19

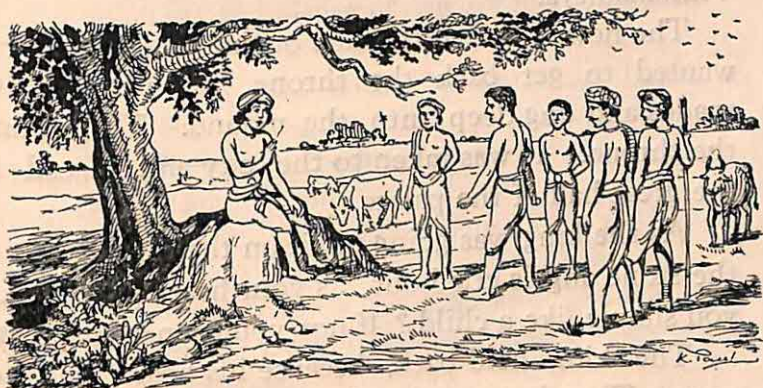
VIKRAMADITYA

PART TWO

plenty	sudden	grave	settled
judgment	spread	neighbouring	secret
	spades	wings	

Idioms : at will, all on a sudden, for ever

Spelling : judge—judgment



Boys used to tend their cows in the fields near the mound. The cows fed on the grass at will. The boys sat in the shade of trees. They had plenty of time for fun.

One boy would run to the mound and sit on it. He would say out of fun to the other boys : "I am a judge. Bring your cases to me. I shall judge them." The boys played the game of holding a court. They

made out cases and brought them before the boy-judge. All on a sudden the boy became as grave as a judge. He heard their cases and settled them. He was always right in his judgment.

This news spread to the neighbouring villages. Men began to come to him with their cases. He always gave the right judgment. People wondered at it. Now the secret became known that the boy played the part of the judge sitting on a mound. Under the mound lay the throne of King Vikramaditya.

The news came to the ears of the then king. He wanted to get back the throne. Men came with spades and dug deep into the mound. They found the throne. It was taken to the city and placed in the great hall of the palace.

As the king was going to sit on the throne, one of the stone angels cried out, "Is your heart pure? Are you simple like a child? If not, you cannot sit on it."

The king held back, because his heart was not pure. Then he prayed and fasted. He wanted to be pure and simple like a child. But he failed. It was not for him to sit on the throne. He felt sad at heart. But there was no help.

Each time the king failed to sit on the throne, one of the angels fled away. At last only one stone angel was left to support the throne.

Then one day a strange thing happened. The last angel spread out his wings and flew away

with the throne. Thus the famous judgment seat of Vikramaditya was lost for ever.

Note : **Judge** is used both as a *Noun* and as a *Verb* ; as—I am a **judge** (*Noun*) ; I shall **judge** them (*Verb*).

Exercises

Composition :

1. Change the *Verbs* into Present and Future tenses :—
 - (a) People came to his court.
 - (b) They had plenty of time for fun.
 - (c) He always gave the right judgment.
2. Fill in the gaps with the *Parts of Speech* as directed :—
 - (a) The—sat in the shade of— . (*Noun*)
 - (b) —found the throne. (*Pronoun*)
 - (c) Then one day a—thing happened. (*Adjective*)
 - (d) He—their cases and—them. (*Verb*)
 - (e) He was—right in his judgment. (*Adverb*)
 - (f) One boy would run—the mound and sit—it. (*Prepositions*)

Conversation :

1. Why was the boy always right in his judgment ?
 2. What became of the wonderful throne at last ?
-

LESSON 20

RAINDROPS

drops

window-pane

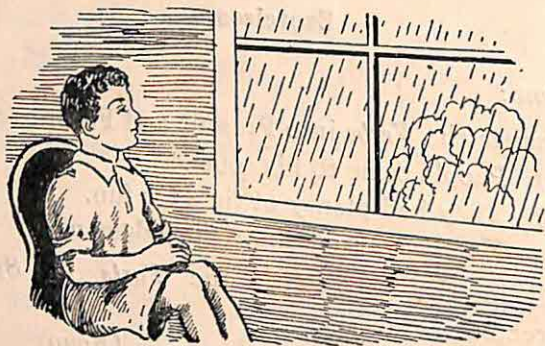
locked

bricks

rainy

naughty

Idioms : put away, took away



Oh, where do you come from,
You little drops of rain,
Pitter-patter, pitter-patter
Down the window-pane ?

They won't let me walk,
They won't let me play,
And they won't let me go
Out of doors today.

They put away my playthings,
Because I broke them all,
And then they locked up all my bricks,
And took away my ball.

Tell me, little raindrops,
Is that the way you play,
Pitter-patter, pitter-patter
All the rainy day ?

They say I'm very naughty
But I've nothing else to do
But sit here at the window ;
I shall like to play with you.

The little raindrops cannot speak,
But pitter-patter pat
Means "We can play on this side :
Why can't you play on that ?"

Exercises

1. How does the boy pass the rainy day ?
 2. Why were the playthings put away ?
 3. What does pitter-patter pat mean ?
-

LESSON 21

MOUNT EVEREST

range	peaks	world	spot
melts	thin	breathing	difficult
adventures	dangers	dive	climbers
attempt	memorable	conquest	succeeded
hardy	expert	loads	height
endurance	example		courage

Idiom : look upon

The vast range of the Himalayas lies in the north of India. It spreads from east to west. It has some of the highest peaks in the world. The most famous of them all is Mount Everest, and its top is the highest spot on earth. It is covered with snow. This snow never melts. High wind blows there. The air is very thin, and breathing is difficult. It was thought that men would never be able to reach there.

Men like adventures. They face all sorts of dangers. It was so in the past. It is so even now. They cross the seas. They fly through the air. They dive deep into the ocean. Many lose their lives, but they do not stop.

Many climbers tried to reach the top of Mount Everest. But they failed. Some even lost their lives in the attempt.

The year 1953 is a memorable year. This year saw the conquest of Mount Everest by man. Two

men succeeded in reaching the top. One of them is Tensing Norgay, an Indian, and the other is Edmund Hillary, a New Zealander.

Tensing Norgay is a Sherpa. The Sherpas are a very brave and hardy people. They have their



homes high up in the Himalayas. They are very expert climbers. They can carry heavy loads to a great height.

Tensing's name is now famous all the world over. He has brought glory to India. He has set a great example of courage and endurance.

Note : 1. As '**the Himalayas**' means a range of mountains, it is always used in the plural, and **the** is used before it.

2. When **man** means mankind, it is used without **the** before it.

Grammar and Composition

"Men like adventures."

Here the words *men*, *like*, *adventures* combine to make a complete sense. This is a **Sentence**.

A sentence has two parts—*subject* and *predicate* ; as—

<i>Sentence</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Predicate</i>
Men like adventures.	Men	like adventures

This sentence has only one finite verb, *like*. It is a **Simple Sentence**.

Exercises

Composition :

- Break up the following sentences into *Subjects* and *Predicates* :—
 - Tensing Norkay is a Sherpa.
 - They fly through the air.
- Put a *Predicate* in each of the following gaps :—
 - High wind—.
 - The air—.
- Put a *Subject* in each of the following gaps :—
 - tried to reach the top of Everest.
 - even lost their lives.

Conversation :

- Who reached the top of Mount Everest ?
- What do you know about the Sherpas ?

LESSON 22

A BOY HERO

navy	almost	equally	fleet
powerful	admiral	naval	rival
board	sight-setter	shell	action
gun-crew	seriously	wounded	elsewhere
duty	comrades	hospital	nurses
simply	deed	national	hero

England was at war with Germany in 1914. England had a very strong navy at that time. Germany also built a powerful navy.

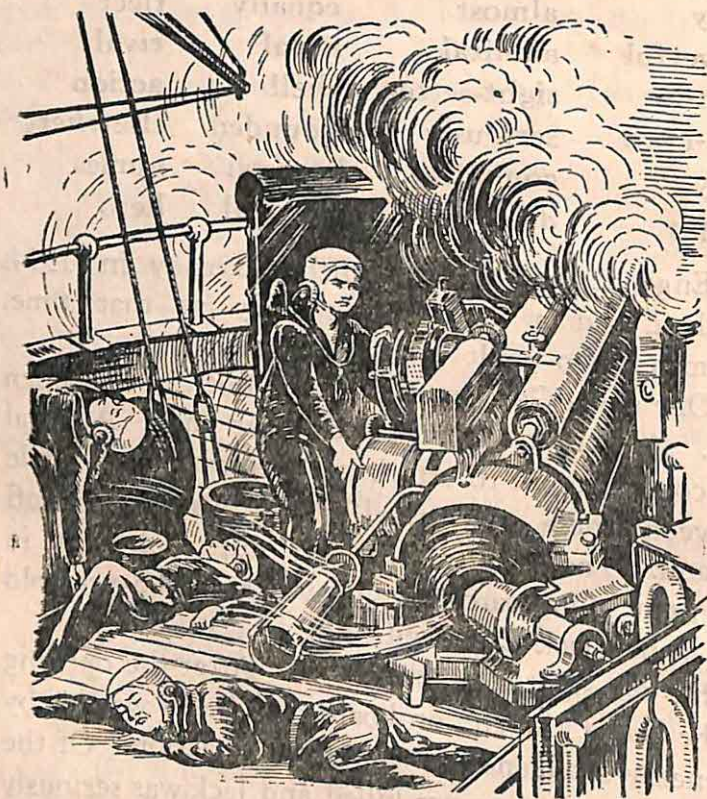
One day a German fleet came out in the open seas. A very powerful British fleet under Admiral Jellicoe sailed out to attack it. A great naval battle between these two rival navies was fought off Jutland. The *Chester*, a British ship, took part in this fight. On board this ship was a sixteen-year-old boy named Jack Cromwell.

He was sight-setter for a gun. After the opening of the battle, the gun on board the *Chester* was hit by an enemy shell, and it was put out of action. Of the ten gun-crew eight were killed, and Jack was seriously wounded.

The duty of Jack was to watch the enemy ships. He had to remain standing by the gun in an open place. He felt that his country might need his service at this hour. He did not seek shelter elsewhere

leaving the post. He was doing his duty under heavy fire, while his comrades lay dead around him.

After the battle was over, he was taken to a hospital. The nurses asked him how the battle had



gone. He simply said, "Oh, we carried on all right." He said nothing of his own deed.

Boy Jack did his duty to the country and died. By meeting death bravely, he has become a national hero. He has left an example that will live for ever.

Note : 'The gun on board the ship was hit by an enemy shell.'—**Enemy** is a *Noun*, but it is used here as an *Adjective*.

Grammar and Composition

A verb may be either transitive or intransitive. A *transitive* verb takes an object after it to make the sense complete ; as—He said *nothing* of his own deed.

Exercises

Composition :

1. Find out the *Object* to the verb in each of the following sentences :—
 - (a) Boy Jack did his duty to the country.
 - (b) He did not seek shelter elsewhere leaving his post.
2. Put an *Object* in the gap in each of the following sentences :—
 - (a) He felt that his country might need his—.
 - (b) He was doing his—under heavy fire.
 - (c) He has left an—.
3. Frame short sentences with each of the following words :—*Example, hero, watch, powerful, seriously, under, need.*

Conversation :

1. Why has Jack Cromwell become a national hero ?
 2. What was Jack's duty on board the ship ?
 3. Why did not Jack seek shelter ?
-

LESSON 23

A CRADLE SONG

birdie

peep

What does little birdie say
In her nest at peep of day ?
Let me fly, says little birdie,
Mother, let me fly away.
Birdie, rest a little longer,
Till the little wings are stronger.
So she rests a little longer
Then she flies away.

What does little baby say
In her bed at peep of day ?
Baby says, like little birdie,
Let me rise and fly away.
Baby, sleep a little longer,
Till the little limbs are stronger,
If she sleeps a little longer
Baby, too, shall fly away.

—Tennyson

Exercises

1. Quote from your memory what the baby says.
 2. What does the mother say to her baby ?
-

LESSON 24

OUR INDIA

colours	yellow	strive	wheel
peace	happiness	olden	beautiful
temples	religion	culture	proud
doubt	parliament	prime	minister
mighty	wheat	sacred	soil
	minerals	glorious	

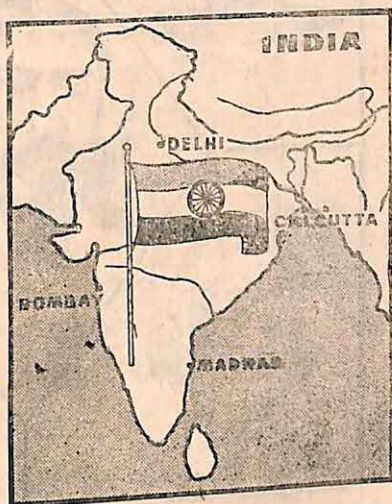
Idiom : in plenty

India is our mother-country. We are born in India. We are all sons and daughters of India. We should love one another as brothers and sisters. We should work together for the good of our country.

Our country has now its national flag. It has three colours : green, white and yellow. It has a wheel in the centre.

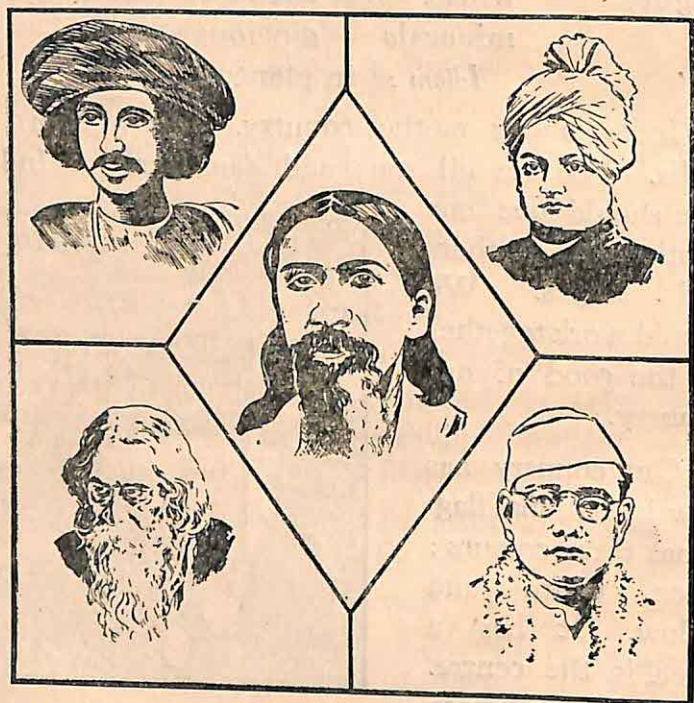
It stands for peace and happiness for all. We should all strive to keep the honour of our flag bright.

India is an old and famous land. In olden days many great men were born here. They built big



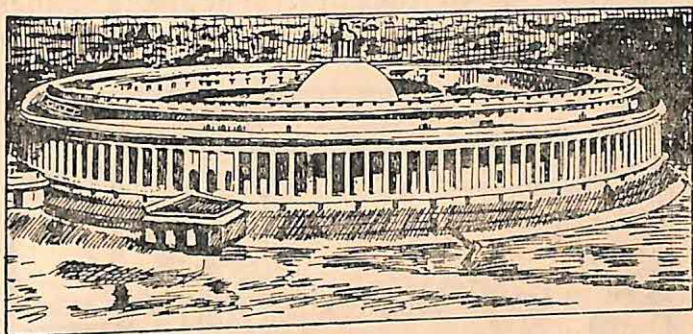
cities and beautiful temples. They built large ships and sailed across the seas. They went to far-off lands and spread our religion and culture there. They have made the name of India great all the world over.

Some of the greatest men of India were born in Bengal. We, Bengalis, are proud of Raja Rammohan



Roy, Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobind, Rabindranath Tagore, Netaji Subhas Chandra and many other great men. They were all born in Bengal, no doubt, but their life and work have made India great.

Delhi is now the capital of India. It is a very old and famous city. There are many fine buildings



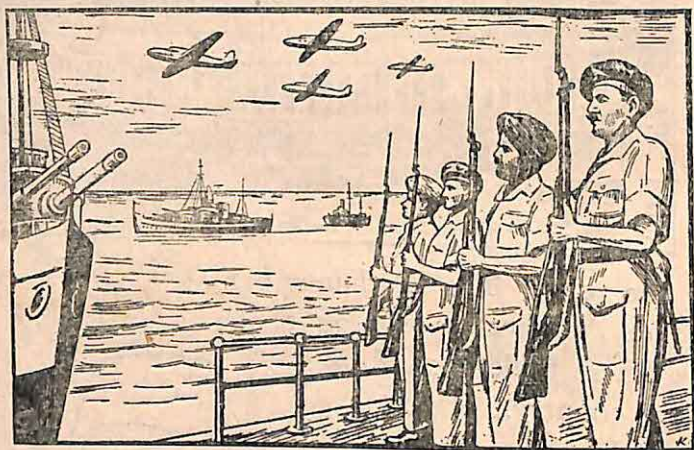
in the city. The Parliament House where the Indian Parliament or Lok Sabha sits, is one of the finest buildings of our country. Pandit Jawharlal Nehru is now the Prime Minister of India. He works hard to make our country great and glorious. May he live long to lead the country to greater glory.



India is a vast country. Millions and millions of men live here. In the north lies the mighty range of the Himalayas. On the other three sides—east, west and south, there are seas. Many big rivers flow through the country. The Ganga, a sacred river to the Hindus, is the most important of them all.

The soil is very rich. Rice, wheat and other crops are grown in plenty.

India is rich in minerals. There are mines of gold, iron and coal in different parts of the country.



Our country has a large army and a good fleet. It has also a strong air force. In many ways ours is a great country. It has a glorious past, and it has a bright future. Fear not, do your duty, love all. That is the way to serve India. India will smile in peace and plenty, if her sons and daughters do their duty and work hard.

Note : Mark the peculiarity of the use of **our**, **ours** and **good** in the following sentences :—

Our country has a large army.

Ours is a great country.

‘We should work together for the **good** of our country.

—**Good** is an adjective, but it is used here as a *Noun*.

Grammar and Composition

Names such as *India*, the *Himalayas*, *Swami Vivekananda* are all **Proper Nouns**.

Names such as *man*, *river*, *country* are **Common Nouns**.

Names such as *army*, *fleet* are **Collective Nouns**.

Names such as *gold*, *water*, *rice* are **Material Nouns**.

Names such as *religion*, *peace*, *happiness* are **Abstract Nouns**.

Exercises**Composition :**

1. Pick out the *Nouns* and name their *Class* :—
 - (a) There are mines of gold, iron and coal in different parts of the country.
 - (b) India will smile in peace and plenty.
2. Fill in each gap with a *Noun* :—
 - (a) —is rich in minerals.
 - (b) Many big—flow through the country.
 - (c) They went to far-off—and spread our—and—there.
3. Frame sentences with the following :—
Glorious, in plenty, far-off, one another, for the good of.

Conversation :

1. Who have made the name of India great all the world over ?
 2. Why are we proud of our great men ?
 3. What is the way to serve our India ?
-

LESSON 25

THE ESKIMOS

climates	remains	wood	mud
blocks	door-way	tents	sealskin
chief	raw	fur	reindeer
travel	sledges	habit	tongue

Spelling : sledges

This earth is a very wide place. Some parts of it are very hot, and some other parts are very cold. The people living in different climates have not the same ways of life. They do not eat the same food and wear the same sort of clothes. They build their houses in quite different ways.

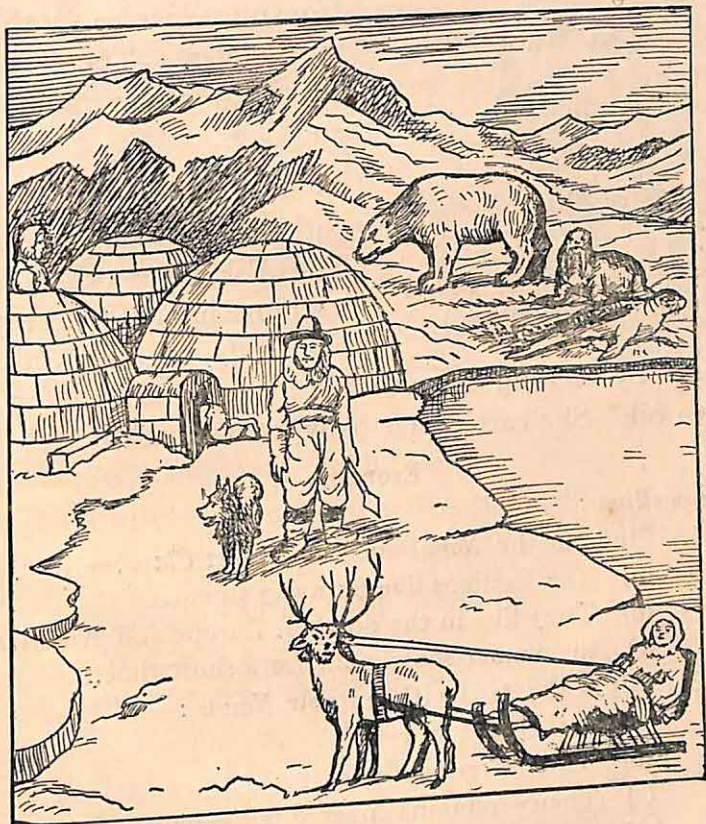
The Eskimos live far away in the north of Europe and America. There the climate is very cold. Their land remains covered with snow most of the year. No trees grow there. In this land of snow and ice they cannot grow any crop. They live a very hard life, yet their country is dear to them, and they would not change it for a better one.

In winter they live in snow-houses. We use brick, wood and mud for building our houses. But their houses are made of blocks of ice, and they have no windows. The Eskimos keep only one door-way to go in and out of the room.

In summer snow melts for a short time. They then live in tents made of sealskin. They go out

fishing in their small boats called Kayaks. These are not made of wood but of sealskin.

Meat is their chief food, and they eat it raw. They hunt seals and eat their meat and fat.



They burn fat as oil to light their rooms. They use sealskin in making their dress. The fur of seals is very soft and warm. It keeps out cold.

The Eskimos keep dogs and reindeer. The reindeer is a very useful animal for them. They eat its meat and make coats from its skin. They travel from one place to another in sledges. These are drawn by their reindeer and dogs.



The Eskimos do not bathe in water as we do. The Eskimo mother has a strange habit. She keeps the body of her baby clean by licking it with her tongue, and rubbing it with oil. She carries her baby on her back.

Exercises

Composition :

1. Find out the *Nouns* and name their *Class* :—
 - (a) The Eskimos live far away from us.
 - (b) They live in the north of Europe and America.
 - (c) In summer snow melts for a short time.
2. Fill in the gaps with suitable *Nouns* :—
 - (a) —is their chief—.
 - (b) They keep—and—.
 - (c) Their—remains covered with—most of the—.

Conversation :

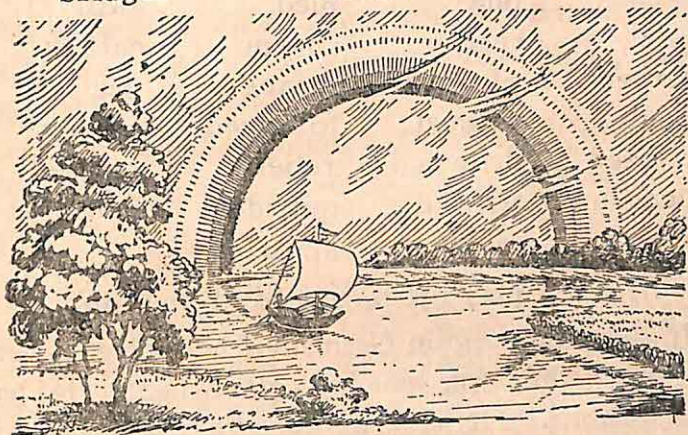
1. Where do the Eskimos live ?
 2. How do the Eskimos build their houses ?
 3. How do they dress themselves ?
-

LESSON 26
THE RAINBOW

bridges

heaven

overtops



Boats sail on the river,
And ships sail on the seas ;
But clouds that sail across the sky,
Are prettier far than these.

There are bridges on the rivers,
As pretty as you please ;
But the bow that bridges heaven,
And overtops the trees,
And builds a road from earth to sky,
Is prettier far than these.

—Christina Rossetti

Exercises

1. What builds a road from earth to sky ?
2. What does a rainbow look like ?

LESSON 27

THE PIED PIPER

piper	odd	ped	skill
music	spell	charm	gather
together	plan	means	declared
agreed	reward	followed	endless
increased	drowned	relief	refused
procession	tripped	outside	cave
	searched	anywhere	

Idioms : play upon, get rid of, in vain

In a certain town in Germany there lived a very poor piper. He was not like other men. He had strange habits. He wore an odd sort of dress made of small bits of cloths. They were of many colours. So people called him the Pied Piper.

The piper had great skill in music. He could play upon his pipe with wonderful skill. He would sit under a tree and blow his pipe. It would then cast a spell around. Such was the charm of his piping that even birds and beasts would come and gather round him.

One day the piper came to a town named Hamelin. At that time the people of the town were in great trouble. They were suffering much from rats. The rats ate away their food. They ate into their clothes, their books, even their boots. The people tried all means to get rid of the rats but in vain. The old men met together to think out a

plan. They declared that the man, who would free the town of rats, would get a big reward.

On hearing this, the piper came to the old men. He said, "Sirs, I can help you in your need. I can rid your town of rats if you give me a thousand guilders."

The old men looked at him and wondered at his strange dress. They said, "Well, man, we will give you fifty thousand."



Then the piper began to play upon his pipe. His sweet music cast a spell all around. And the rats came out of their holes and followed him in an endless line. Their number increased as the piper walked from street to street piping.

At last the piper came to the river-bank and went on piping. Then the rats, one by one, leapt into the river and were drowned.

The piper went back to the old men and asked for the reward.

The old men now felt a great relief. They thought that their work was done, and they no



longer needed the piper. So they refused to pay him the reward. They said, "Leave this place at once. You will get nothing."

The piper got angry with them. He wanted to teach them a lesson. He began to play upon his pipe again. This time the children came out of their houses, and they followed him in a long procession. There was no means of stopping them.

The piper walked on piping, and the children tripped after him. The children were led to a

mountain outside the town. There was a gate on the side of the mountain leading to a cave. The gate opened. The children passed through the gate into the cave, and the gate closed for ever. Nothing was known of the fate of the children. They were seen no more.

The men searched for the piper, but he was not to be found anywhere.

Exercises

Composition :

1. Find out the *Adjectives* in the following sentences :—
 - (a) The old men took alarm.
 - (b) His sweet music cast a spell all around.
 - (c) He could play upon his pipe with wonderful skill.
2. Place *Adjectives* before the nouns in the following gaps :—
 - (a) The—men looked at him and wondered at his—dress.
 - (b) He wore an—sort of dress.
3. Frame sentences with the following :—
Play upon, one by one, at once, to get rid of.

Conversation :

1. Why was the piper called 'Pied' ?
 2. How did the pied piper make the town free of rats ?
 3. Why did the pied piper make the children follow him to the cave ?
 4. What became of the children ?
-

LESSON 28

GIVE ME COURAGE

honesty goodness justice truth
youth wrong guard

God, give me courage
To do what is right ;
Courage to speak,
Courage to fight
For honesty, goodness,
Justice and truth ;
Courage to choose
The good in my youth ;
Courage to own
When I'm in the wrong ;
Courage to face
The day with a song ;
Courage to guard
My thoughts and my tongue ;
Courage to choose
The right when I'm young,
—Unknown

Exercises

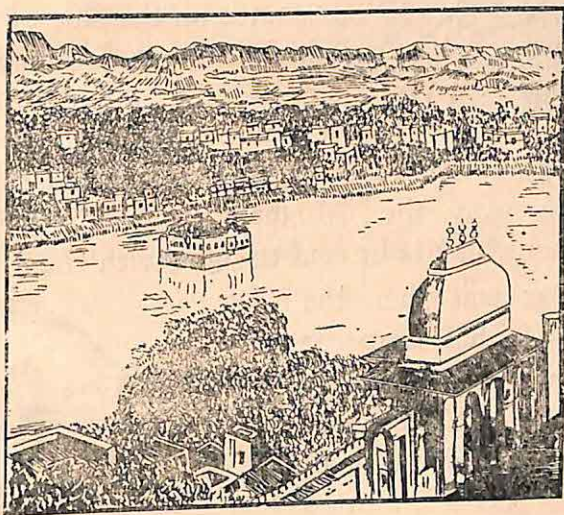
1. What does the poet pray for ?
2. What will the poet fight for ?
3. What will the poet choose in his youth ?

LESSON 29

RANA PRATAP

fighters	conquer	shifted	emperor
control	peaceful	slave	yield
generals	collect	defeated	followers
dine	vow	coarse	patriots

Idiom : knew no bounds



Rajasthan is the land of the Rajputs. The Rajputs were a brave people in the past. They were good fighters. The Mughals wanted to conquer their country. But the Rajputs beat off their attacks and kept their country free for a long time.

Mewar was once a powerful state in Rajasthan. Its capital was Chitore. It was a very beautiful city.



But it fell into the hands of the Mughals at last. Udaya Singha, father of Rana Pratap, shifted his capital from Chitore to Udaipur.

Udaipur is now one of the most beautiful cities of India. It stands on the side of a lake which is about two miles long and a mile and a half broad. It is not far from Chitore.

Rana Pratap, ruler of Mewar, made up his mind to drive away the Mughals from Chitore. So throughout his life he had to fight with them.

Akbar was then the mighty Mughal Emperor of Delhi. He had large armies. But Mewar was a small state with a small army. Akbar wanted to bring Mewar under his control by peaceful means. But Rana Pratap would not be a slave. He would not yield to



Akbar. Akbar sent a large army against Pratap. Raja Mansingh was at the head of the army. He

was the best of Akbar's generals. To meet them Pratap could collect only twenty-two thousand soldiers. The two armies met at Haldighat. A fierce battle was fought. The Rajputs under Rana Pratap fought bravely against the army led by Mansingh. Many Rajputs lay dead in the field of battle. Though defeated, Rana Pratap did not yield to Akbar. With his wife, children and a few faithful followers he fled to the Aravalli Hills.



Rana Pratap used to dine off gold plates, eat rich food and sleep on a very soft bed. But he now took a vow that so long as he could not set Chitore free, he would eat only coarse food, for gold plates he would use leaves of trees, and he would sleep on hard ground. He kept this vow to the last moment of his life.

Pratap's sufferings for the country knew no bounds. With his wife and children he moved from place to place. There were times when he had to feed on wild fruits of the forest. There were times when he had not even these to eat. But he did not bow down his head to the Mughals. His love of country and strong will kept him true to his vow.

The history of Rajasthan is full of stories of heroes and patriots. But there was none so brave as Rana Pratap.

Exercises

Composition :

1. Determine the *Cases* of the *Nouns* in the following sentences :—
 - (a) The Rajputs under Rana Pratap fought bravely.
 - (b) The two armies met at Haldighat.
2. Use *Will* both as a *Noun* and as a *Verb*.
3. Fill in each gap with a *Preposition* :—
 - (a) Akbar wanted to bring Mewar—his control—peaceful means.
 - (b) Udaya Singha, father of Rana Pratap, shifted his capital—Chitore—Udaipur.
 - (c) His love—country and strong will kept him true—his vow.

Conversation :

1. What vow did Rana Pratap take and why ?
 2. How did Pratap pass his days in the Aravalli Hills ?
-

TRY AGAIN

stumble

downcast

Though you stumble oft, boys,
Never be downcast ;
Try, and try again, boys,
You'll succeed at last.

—Hickson

Exercises

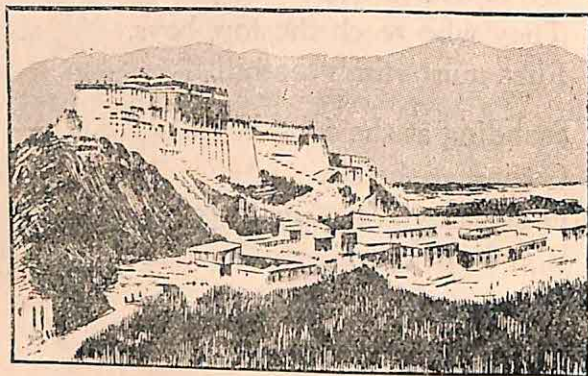
1. How should a boy do his work ?
2. What should a boy do if he fails in the first attempt ?

LESSON 31

A WONDERFUL LAND

neighbours	barrier	routes	traders
mostly	packed	mules	centre
barley	domestic	burden	butter
source	wealth	exported	foreign
leather	knees	salt	religious
influence	tower	steep	travellers
disguise	monks	scholar	highly
revered	throughout	lake	pilgrims

Idiom : put on



Tibet is a wonderful land. It lies to the north of India. The Tibetans are a wonderful people. Their food, dress and ways of life are not like what we see among other peoples. They are our neighbours. But we know very little of them, and they know very little of us. It is so because it is very difficult for men to travel from one country to the

other. The mighty Himalayas stand as a great barrier between Tibet and India.

There are routes for going to Tibet. These routes lie through high mountain passes. Traders from Tibet come to India on foot. They carry their goods, mostly wool, packed on mules. Kalimpong is the biggest centre of wool trade between Tibet and India.

Tibet is a very cold and hilly country. Much corn cannot be grown there. Only in some places barley is grown. The Tibetans have a domestic animal, Yak. It is of much use to them. It is their beast of burden. It gives them milk and butter.

The Tibetans keep sheep and goats for their wool. This wool is the chief source of their wealth. It



is exported to foreign countries.

The Tibetans wear warm clothes. Men and women dress alike. They put on a kind of boots made of leather or felt. These reach up to their knees. Both men and women keep long hair, and they look almost alike. Barley and meat are their main food. The Tibetans are very fond of tea. They

drink green tea, and they have their own way of making it. They boil it with water, and mix butter



and salt with it. A Tibetan would drink as many as thirty cups of tea in a day.



The Tibetans are Buddhists. As a people they are very religious. Their monks are called Lamas. The head Lamas have great power and influence over the people.

The Dalai Lama is the head of the Lamas. He is also the head of the State. He lives in his palace at

Lhasa, the capital of Tibet. The palace, called the Potala, is a very wonderful building. It rises high above the ground cut out of a steep mountain.

In the past Tibet lay like a hidden land. No men from outside could visit Tibet. Travellers from outside would sometimes enter their country dressed as Tibetan monks. One Bengali, Sarat Chandra Das, visited the country in disguise. Many, many centuries ago, a great Bengali Buddhist monk and scholar, Dipankar, went over to Tibet and spread Buddhism there. His name is still highly revered throughout Tibet.



The great lake Manassarowar and Mount Kailas lie in Western Tibet. They are sacred to the Hindus as well as to the Buddhists. Every year hundreds of Hindu and Buddhist pilgrims visit these holy places.

Note : **Head** is used both as a *Noun* and as an *Adjective* in the two following sentences :—

The Dalai Lama is the **head** of the Lamas. (*Noun*)

The **head** Lamas have great power and influence over the people. (*Adjective*)

Clothes is one of the plural forms of **cloth** ; it means dress.

Grammar and Composition

Verbs are mainly of two kinds—*Transitive* and *Intransitive*. Intransitive verbs have no objects ; as—(i) He *is* also the head of the State. (ii) They *are* sacred to the Hindus as well as to the Buddhists. (iii) These routes *lie* through high mountain passes.

But Transitive verbs have objects ; as—(i) They *boil* it with water. (ii) The Tibetans *keep* goats and sheep for their wool. (iii) We *know* very little of them.

Exercises*Composition :*

1. Pick out the *Transitive* and *Intransitive* verbs from the following sentences :—
 - (a) The Tibetans wear warm clothes.
 - (b) Tibet is a very cold and hilly country.
 - (c) The Tibetans are our neighbours.
 - (d) Both men and women keep long hair.
2. Frame sentences with the following verbs :—
Drink, live, visit, give, carry, travel.

Conversation :

1. What is an Yak ?
 2. How do the Tibetans prepare tea ?
 3. What are the chief food of the Tibetans ?
 4. Who is the Dalai Lama ? Where does he live ?
-

LESSON 32

MY LAND

rare

native

waver

freely

divine

dull

She is a rich and rare land ;
Oh ! she's a fresh and fair land,
She is a dear and rare land—
This native land of mine.

No men than hers are braver—
Her women's hearts ne'er waver ;
I'd freely die to save her,
And think my lot divine.

She's not a dull or cold land ;
No ! she's a warm and old land ;
Oh ! she's a true and old land—
This native land of mine.

Oh ! she's a fresh and fair land,
Oh ! she's a rare and true land !
Yes, she's a rare and fair land,
This native land of mine.

—Thomas Davis

Exercises

1. When would the boy think his lot divine ?
 2. Why is the native land so dear to the boy ?
-

LESSON 33

SOHRAB AND RUSTUM

PART ONE

fame	journey	tired	tied
thief	stole	angry	direct
stranger	asleep	already	afraid
marriage	amulet	sign	word
	searched	informing	

Idioms : set out, sent for, far and wide



There was once a king in Persia who had a great general. His name was Rustum. He was very brave and strong. There was no hero like him in all Persia. His fame spread far and wide.

One day he set out on a journey. He rode on and on. At last he reached another country. As

he was tired with riding, he got down from his horse. He tied it to a tree and went to sleep. In the meantime, a thief came and stole away his horse.

He woke up and found that his horse was gone. He became very angry. He went direct to the king of this new country, and said, "Oh king! I am a stranger in your land. I am Rustum. While I lay asleep, my horse was stolen away. I want justice."

As the king had already heard of Rustum, he felt afraid. To please Rustum, the king gave away his daughter in marriage with him. Rustum lived there happily with his wife for some time.

One day the king of Persia sent for Rustum. Rustum called his wife to him and said, "I am going to leave you. If a son be born to you, send him to me. I shall bring him up and make him brave and strong like myself. Take this amulet. Put it on my son. I shall know him by this sign. If a daughter be born, you need not send word to me."

In due time a son was born to Rustum. He was named Sohrab. Sohrab's mother feared that she might lose her son if she sent him to Rustum. She kept her son to herself without informing Rustum. Sohrab grew up into a fine young man. He was brave and strong like his father. He learnt from his mother whose son he was. He felt very proud of his father. There was now one desire in his heart that he must find out his father. He searched for him far and wide, but he could not meet him.

Grammar and Composition

Capital letters are used in the following ways :—

1. Every sentence begins with a capital letter ; as—
One day he set out on a journey.
2. The names of *countries, persons*, that is to say, all Proper Nouns begin with capital letters ; as—
There was once a king in *Persia*. His name was *Rustum*.
3. The Pronoun 'I' is always written with a capital letter ; as—While *I* lay asleep, my horse was stolen away.

Exercises**Composition :**

1. Put *Capital letters* where necessary :—
 - (a) the king of persia sent for rustum.
 - (b) i am going to leave you.
 - (c) he felt very proud of his father.
2. Frame sentences with the following :—
Lay asleep, set out, happily, bring up.

Conversation :

1. Why did Rustum give an amulet to his wife ?
 2. Why did not the wife send her son to her husband Rustum ?
-

LESSON 34

THE WONDERFUL WORLD

curled
friendly

breast
nod

shaking
cliffs

whirls
isles

Great, wide, beautiful, wonderful world
With the wonderful water round you curled,
And the wonderful grass upon your breast,
World, you are beautifully drest !

The wonderful air is over me,
And the wonderful wind is shaking the tree.
It walks on the water, and whirls the mills,
And talks to itself on the mills of the hills.

You friendly earth ! How far do you go,
With the wheat-fields that nod, and the rivers
that flow,
With cities and gardens, cliffs and isles,
And people upon you for thousands of miles ?

—W. B. Rands.

Exercises

1. Why does the poet call the world wonderful ?
2. What walks on water and talks to itself ?
3. Why is the earth called friendly ?
———

LESSON 35

SOHRAB AND RUSTUM

PART TWO

joined	avoid	result	proposal
stroke	spared	humbled	spear
hurled	unfair	surely	exclaimed
mere	bluff	prove	dangerously
speechless	grief	tears	cheeks

Idioms : face to face, of course



Then a chance came. At that time a war broke out between the Tartars and the Persians. Sohrab joined the Tartar army. Though young, he rose to a high position in the army.

Soon the Tartar and the Persian armies met in a battlefield. The two armies stood face to face. A

battle would result in the loss of many lives. So to avoid it a proposal was made. Each side should choose its best and bravest man, and these two men should fight, the one for the Tartars, and the other for the Persians.

The Tartars chose Sohrab. The Persians, of course, chose Rustum as their hero.

But Rustum came in disguise. He did not like it to be known that a hero like him was going to fight with a mere boy.

Then the fight began on the bank of the river Oxus. The father and the son did not know each other. With one mighty stroke of his sword, Sohrab cut off the sword of Rustum. Then Sohrab could have killed him easily, but he spared his life.

Rustum was humbled. He became very angry. He took up a spear and hurled it with all his might at Sohrab.

The spear went deep into the heart of Sohrab. He fell to the ground and cried out in great pain, "Oh! you kill me by unfair means. If my father, the great Rustum, hears of it, he will surely kill you."

Rustum exclaimed, "What do you say, my boy? You give me a mere bluff. Are you Rustum's son? Can you prove it?"

Sohrab showed him the amulet. All became clear to Rustum. But it was too late. Sohrab now knew that it was his father Rustum who had hurled the spear and wounded him so dangerously.

Sohrab lay dying on the battlefield. It was his only comfort that at last he had met his father.

Over the dying son stood Rustum speechless in grief. Tears rolled down his cheeks.

Grammar and Composition

Full stop is used at the end of a sentence ; as—
Sohrab showed him the amulet.

Quotation marks (or Inverted commas) are used at the beginning and end of the speech of a speaker ; as—Sohrab cried out in great pain, "Oh ! you kill me by unfair means. If my father, the great Rustum, hears of it, he will surely kill you."

A Note of Interrogation is used after a sentence asking a question ; as—"What do you say, my boy ?"

Exercises

Composition :

1. Punctuate the following :—

He went direct to the king and said Oh king
I am a stranger in your land I am Rustum

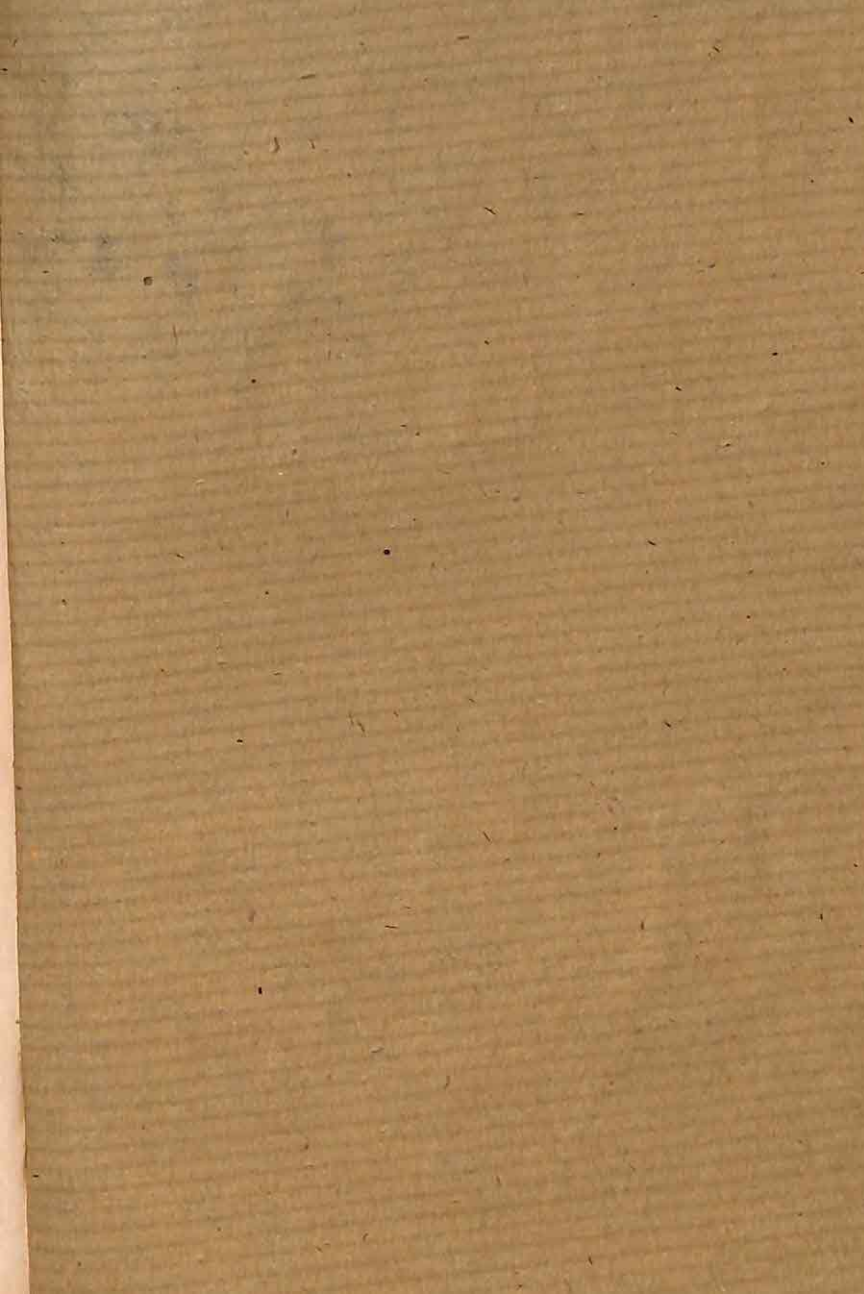
2. Frame sentences with each of the following :—

Surely, calmly, easily, by unfair means, face to face,
in disguise, of course.

Conversation :

1. What proposal was made to avoid the loss of many lives ?
2. How did Rustum know his son Sohrab ?

THE END



It was the

father.

and the mother.

